

(26. (New) The multi-vendor Internet commerce system of claim 1, wherein the MV-CPU forwards consumer credit card information to the plurality of vendors, wherein the vendors charge the consumers.

REMARKS

Claims 4-5 and 15-18 have been cancelled. Claims 11 and 13 have been amended. Claims 19-26 have been added.

The applicants affirm the election of claims 1-14.

The Examiner noted that a "Brief Description of the Drawings" was missing. A "Brief Description of the Drawings" has been added.

The Examiner objected to the drawings, stating that the page margins are not large enough. Corrected drawings are included with this office action.

The Examiner rejected claims 11 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. The Examiner stated that in line 3 of claim 11, the terminology, "the gift registries" lacks antecedent basis, and that in claim 13, line 2, "the authentication page" lacks an antecedent basis. Claims 11 and 13 have been amended accordingly.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-10 and 12-14 under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Imamura et al. in view of Wolfe et al. The Examiner stated that Imamura et al. discloses all of the limitations of the claims except the specific teaching of the commerce system including a plurality of vendors, but that Wolfe teaches a similar data center system for linking a plurality of buyers with a plurality of vendors and that it would have been obvious to modify Imamura et al to have the system including a plurality of vendors/shops in view of Wolfe in order to provide a system that efficiently connects buyers with appropriate vendors, citing col. 2, lines 4-8 and col. 2, lines 61-65 of Wolfe.

Regarding claim 1, Wolfe does not enable e-commerce as recited in claim 1. Page 3, lines 10-13, of the application describes e-commerce as allowing a consumer to shop, select merchandise for payment, and complete a transaction at a vendor website. Wolfe provides a method and apparatus for formulating and submitting a purchase request over a computer network and making the purchase request available to a dealer immediately, as stated in the

beginning of the abstract in Wolfe. The purchase request of Wolfe et al. is not a completed electronic purchase that occurs in e-commerce, but instead is a request that is sent to a dealer so that the dealer may contact the user. Neither Imamura nor Wolfe disclose or suggests a multi-vendor e-commerce system. Therefore it would not be obvious to combine the real time communication of purchase request system of Wolfe and combine it with the electronic shopping system of Imamura to obtain the multi-vendor Internet commerce system for enabling e-commerce as recited in claim 1. For at least these reasons, claim 1 is not made obvious by Imamura in view of Wolfe.

Claims 2-3, 6-10 and 12-14 each depend either directly or indirectly from independent claim 1, and are therefore respectfully submitted to be patentable over the art of record for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1. Additionally, these dependent claims require additional elements that when taken in the context of the claimed invention, further patentably distinguish the art of record.

For example, claims 7 and 12 further recite a universal, cross-vendor shopping cart into which items selected from a plurality of vendors may be deposited. Neither Imamura nor Wolfe teach or make obvious such a universal shopping cart. Imamura teaches a shopping cart for a single vendor not multiple vendors. Wolfe et al. does not teach a shopping cart. Wolfe teaches away from allowing the selection of items from a plurality of vendors. In FIG. 10 of Wolfe at step 1004 a check is made to see if a prior purchase was requested. If a prior purchase was requested, then a new purchase request is rejected (step 1006). Therefore a universal shopping cart into which items from a plurality of vendors may be deposited is not disclosed or made obvious by Imamura in view of Wolfe. In addition, it would not be obvious from Imamura and Wolfe on how to implement a multi-vendor shopping cart. Such a shopping cart would need to be able to determine different taxes and shipping fees for different vendors and also determine if different vendors have items in stock. This is non-trivial, and such a solution is not suggested by Imamura, since Imamura has only one vendor, which has only a single tax and shipping cost, nor by Wolfe, since the device in Wolfe does not electronically close the deal, so that sales tax and shipping and other costs are not determined by the central computer system. For at least these reasons, claims 2-3, 6-10, and 12-14 are not made obvious by Imamura et al.

The Examiner rejected claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Imamura et al. in view of Wolfe et al., as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Veeneman. The Examiner stated that Imamura et al. in view of Wolfe et al. disclose all the

limitation of the claim except the specific teaching of gift registry logic, but that Veeneman et al. teach a computerized system including gift registry and that it would have been obvious to modify Imamura et al. in view of Wolfe et al. to include gift registry logic, as taught by Veenaman et al. in order to provide a means "to register for goods from a multitude of merchants (Veenaman et al. Col. 1, lines 59-61).

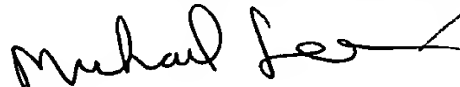
It would not be obvious to combine Imamura and Wolfe with Veeneman to obtain a multiple vendor e-commerce system with gift registry logic for receiving items from various websites to be searchably placed into the various gift registries, as recited in claim 11. Nothing in Imamura, Wolfe and Veeneman discloses or suggest gift registry logic in a Multi-Vendor Central Processing Unit for a central multivendor web site. Instead Veeneman discloses and suggests a kiosk that uses and reads bar codes to create a gift registry and to determine purchased items, as described in col. 3, line 45, to col. 4, line 39. The claimed e-commerce system would have the geographical limitations of a kiosk and would not need to rely on bar code scanners. Such a geographically limited kiosk, which relies on bar code readers, would not make obvious the recited e-commerce system. For at least these reasons, claim 11 is not made obvious by Imamura and Wolfe in view of Veeneman.

Claims 19-26 have been added to further distinguish the claimed invention from Imamura et al. and Wolfe. For example, claim 19 recites providing a single payment process to purchase a plurality of items from a plurality of the plurality of vendors. This is supported by page 28, lines 5 to 15. Neither Wolfe nor Imamura nor Veeneman disclose or suggest a purchase from a plurality of the plurality of vendors by a single payment.

Applicants believe that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully request a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a

telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at telephone number (831) 655-2300.

Respectfully submitted,
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Lee", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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